



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

March 15, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Governor Holds Big 5 Meeting

Today, the Governor held the first Big 5 meeting of the 2005 legislative session with the leaders of the four legislative caucuses. The meeting, which was not on the Governor's schedule, was apparently arranged so hastily that Speaker Nuñez was unable to attend because of another engagement. According to media sources who were briefed by a Governor's spokesperson and Senate President Pro Tempore Don Perata, the issues discussed included the Governor's proposed reorganization of the Department of the Youth Authority and the Department of Corrections, the Governor's solar tax credit bill, legislative confirmation of former Senator Bruce McPherson as Secretary of State, and establishment of a process to negotiate the Governor's reform proposals.

While no decisions appear to have been made, the fact that all the parties are finally talking to one another rather than blaming each other in the media and threatening a war of attrition through dueling initiatives represents a major breakthrough. According to Senator Perata, the Big 5 have about five weeks to resolve their differences over the

Governor's reform proposal, a deadline presumably set by the Governor before undertaking a major effort to collect signatures to put them on the ballot at a fall special election. Both Senator Perata and the Governor's spokesperson expressed optimism that negotiations could produce acceptable compromises.

By way of background, on January 5, 2005, the Governor called the Legislature into extraordinary session to consider four constitutional amendments that he maintained were necessary to reform California and complete the process of putting the State's fiscal house in order. The four proposals included: a change in the State budget process to provide for an automatic, across the board reduction in State spending whenever a deficit was projected and the Legislature was unable to act; replacement of the current defined benefit pension plan for all public employees with a defined contribution plan starting in 2007; requiring that salary increases for teachers and school administrators be based on merit rather than seniority; and establishment of a panel of retired judges to redraw the boundaries of Congressional, legislative and Board of Equalization districts in time for the 2006 election.

All of the proposals have proven to be very controversial. The Governor dropped the merit pay proposal in favor of requiring a five year rather than three year probation period before teachers receive tenure. He has continually criticized the Legislature for lack of action. For its part, the Legislature, which has held hearings on some of the other proposals, has criticized them as lacking in details, claiming they cannot act without the information needed to judge the merits of the Governor's proposals. Perhaps now that both sides are talking privately, they can begin to resolve their differences and avoid a fall election that could set a record for ballot initiatives. As of last week, some 40 initiatives were in circulation and another 39 were pending at the Attorney General's Office.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 324 (McClintock), as introduced, would define a transportation gridlock emergency as a condition that requires extraordinary State action, and authorizes the Governor to declare a state of emergency when any highway has an average daily vehicle delay that exceeds 3,000 vehicle hours per day. This bill would also require the Department of Transportation to prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature that contains a list of state highways, in ranking order, based on the average daily vehicle hours of delay for the highway, excluding weekends. SB 324 is very similar to County-supported SB 957 (McClintock) of 2003. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support SB 324.** This measure is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee on April 5, 1005. There is no registered support or opposition.

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A roster containing the status of all bills of County interest is attached.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:JR:EW:ib

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Local 660
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist
 Coalition of County Unions
 California Contract Cities Association
 Independent Cities Association
 League of California Cities
 City Managers Associations
 Buddy Program Participants

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
STATUS OF BILLS OF INTEREST TO THE COUNTY
2005-06 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

These are bills we have pursued in Sacramento pursuant to Board actions or as reported in bill policy memoranda.

<u>BILL</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
AB 109	Chan	Support if Amended to require stronger fiscal oversight by the State without affecting local control (Board Action: 3/1/05)	Would require county First 5 commissions to: 1) adopt policies regarding conflict of interest and contracting and procurement procedures; 2) adopt a limit on the amount of its revenues that can be spent on administrative functions; and 3) send its annual audit and report to the State First 5 Commission. The State Commission is allowed to withhold the county commission's share of tobacco tax revenues for failure to submit the data. In its report, each county commission must list, by category, all program areas funded in a format prescribed by the State commission.	Assembly Health
AB 126	Dymally	Oppose (State Update: 1/25/05)	Would require counties to ensure that the availability of services and quality of treatment received by indigent patients is equivalent to the care received by non-indigent patients in private facilities. Would also change the Beilenson process to require counties to make a finding that closing, eliminating, or reducing indigent health care services will not have a detrimental impact on the health care needs of indigent people in the county.	Assembly Health
AB 208	Gordon	Support (Board Action: 2/15/05)	Would require California school districts to give preference to children of military personnel in the process of an interdistrict transfer.	Assembly Education
AB 1285	Montanez	County-sponsored	Would expand eligibility for participation in the Investing in Early Educators stipend program to include persons working in licensed family child care homes and child care centers that do not hold California Department of Education contracts.	Assembly Desk
AB 1491	Calderon	Oppose (Board Action: 3/8/05)	Would reduce the Housing Authority's responsibility for the allocation of Industry Housing Fund Program funds by authorizing the City of Industry to transfer up to 50 percent of the low-and moderate-income housing funds currently administered by the Housing Authority to another eligible public entity located outside the City.	Assembly Desk
SB 34	Florez	Oppose (Board Action: 3/1/05)	Would require that the majority of the membership of the county First 5 commissions consist of persons who do not represent a county.	Senate Local Government

<u>BILL</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
SB 35	Florez	Support if Amended to require stronger fiscal oversight by the State without affecting local control (Board Action: 3/1/05)	Would require county First 5 commissions to: 1) adopt policies regarding conflict of interest and contracting and procurement procedures; 2) adopt a limit on the amount of its revenues that can be spent on administrative functions; and 3) send its annual audit and report to the State First 5 Commission. The State Commission is allowed to withhold the county commission's share of tobacco tax revenues for failure to submit the data. In its report, each county commission must list, by category, all program areas funded in a format prescribed by the State commission.	Senate Appropriations
SB 116	Dutton	Support (Board Action: 2/1/05)	Would eliminate the Safe Surrender Law sunset provision in order to provide for the safe surrender of infants as an alternative to abandonment permanently.	Senate Judiciary
SB 466	Kuehl	Support and Amend to include school zones (State Update: 3/8/05)	Would allow a local agency to use a mobile photo radar system to enforce speed limits on streets within residential districts, subject to certain requirements.	Senate Transportation and Housing
SB 656	Romero	County-sponsored	Would allow a county board of supervisors to place on the ballot a local tax of up to 5 percent on the sale of alcoholic beverages.	Senate Revenue and Taxation
SB 945	Soto	County-sponsored	Would implement names-based HIV reporting in California.	Senate Desk